

## BIOGRAPHY OF EDWARD E. CLARK, JR.

For more than thirty five years, Ed Clark has been a national leader in the field of conservation and nonprofit management. His issue involvement has ranged from wilderness designation and public land management to pesticide regulation and endangered species protection. Raised in Flint Hill, Virginia, Ed received a BA in History and Political Science from Bridgewater College. He did graduate work in educational administration at James Madison University and University of Virginia. His professional training includes environmental mediation, organization management, and strategic planning.

In 1982, after many years as a teacher, professional facilitator, environmental mediator, community organizer, and conservation advocate, Ed began his work as a leadership trainer and organizational consultant for conservation and non-profit groups at the regional, national and international level. He has designed and presented seminars and courses for non-profit organizations and general audiences across the US, and in more than a fifteen countries, throughout Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. His areas of expertise include: leadership development, strategic planning, volunteer management, social engagement, and fundraising. Ed's clients have included Fortune 500 companies, international scientific organizations, state and national governments, and community level civic and social service organizations.

In November of 1982, Ed co-founded and became President of The Wildlife Center of Virginia. Under his leadership, The Wildlife Center has become one of the world's leading veterinary teaching and research hospitals for wildlife and conservation medicine. The Wildlife Center's conservation medicine and environmental education programs have become prototypes for wildlife conservation organizations worldwide. At its state-of-the-art wildlife hospital in Virginia, the Center trains veterinary and wildlife conservation students and professionals from more than 40 countries. The Center also has active outreach programs in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia, working with wildlife rescue organizations, universities, and governments to combat the illegal trade in wildlife, and care for the wild victims of criminal trafficking, and strengthen the non-governmental organizations who are participating in this work.

The Wildlife Center has received many national and international awards under Ed's leadership, especially for its cutting-edge use of information and communication technology. In November of 2007, the Wildlife Center was named the *Conservation Organization of the Year* for the entire United States.

Ed has received many individual honors as well. In 1987, the Virginia Wildlife Federation named him Conservation Educator of the Year. In 1992 the U.S. Committee for the UN Environment Programme named him one of the "500 Environmental Achievers". Ed has received awards from the Venezuelan Ministry of Education for his work promoting environmental education in rural communities, and from Venezuela's Ministry of Defense and Guardia Nacional for his work combating the illegal trafficking of neotropical wildlife. In 2012, Ed received the top award in the national "*Rare Life Award*" program, sponsored by Eagle Rare. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify Courage, Leadership, Survival, Heroism, Devotion, and Character. Ed received a record-shattering 161,000 votes, more than five times the total garnered by any other nominee (of the 134 individuals nominated across the US).

Also active in government service, Ed has been appointed by three Virginia Governors to various boards and commissions, including the Virginia Council on the Environment (the state environmental policy board), the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (one of the nation's largest government land trusts), the Virginia Environmental Education Commission, and the Governor's Commission on Natural Resource Funding. Ed has also served in leadership positions on the boards and advisory councils of more than twenty regional, national, and international conservation organizations, including: the National Wildlife Federation (Eastern Vice Chair); International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (President); Philippe Cousteau Foundation (founding Secretary); and Southern Environmental Law Center (President's Council).

Ed is a well-known and widely recognized television personality. He hosted the weekly series "*Virginia Outdoors*" and "*Wednesdays Untamed*" on Virginia Public Television. More recently he was the host and narrator of "*Wildlife Emergency*", the award-winning series about The Wildlife Center of Virginia, which aired worldwide on Animal Planet. Ed has also appeared in several films and documentaries, and is frequently seen on network television programs such as CNN's Larry King Live, NBC's TODAY, FOX News, CBS Saturday Morning, and C-SPAN's Washington Journal.

Ed is in great demand as a motivational speaker, organizational consultant, and trainer. His conservation work takes him across the United States, and to many other countries each year. When he is not on the road (and often when he is) Ed enjoys his passion for horseback riding, shooting, and wildlife photography.

Ed and his wife, Dr. Kim West Clark, live in the woods near Waynesboro, Virginia with their 5 dogs, 3 cats, 2 horses, and 4 birds.